

## Completed Pollution Prevention Project Case Study

United States Department of Energy  
Office of Environmental Management  
Fact Sheet

### Recycling Construction and Landscaping Materials Los Alamos National Laboratory

#### Original Problem

All of the material from construction, cleanup, or landscaping projects in the past went directly to the landfill although much of the material in these waste loads could have been recycled.

#### The Project Solution

All of the trucks carrying landscaping or construction waste material from LANL now must get approval from the Recycling Coordinator before they can proceed to the county landfill. The Recycling Coordinator examines each load and determines if recyclable materials are present. If recyclable material is easily accessible, the crew at TA-60 removes the material during the inspection. If the material cannot be easily removed, the load is sent back to its site of origin and the recyclable material is segregated from the load at that time. Concrete and asphalt are sent to a crusher to be used for road fill, the clean dirt is sent to the Los Alamos county golf course, and the branches and other plant waste can be chipped at the Los Alamos County landfill to make mulch.

#### Value of Improvement

Increasing the amount of material that gets recycled will help LANL meet the Appendix F performance measures outlined in its contract with the University of California. Reducing the amount of waste from LANL will save space in the landfill. The program will also educate landscaping and construction crews about which types of materials can be recycled.

#### Lifecycle Waste Reduction

|                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Lifecycle Waste Reduction   | ~13,000tons/yr |
| Commencement Date           | 2001           |
| Project Useful Life (Years) | Indefinite     |



#### DOE Monetary Benefits

|                      |        |
|----------------------|--------|
| Total Project Cost   | NA     |
| Lifecycle Savings    | Varies |
| Return on Investment | NA     |

#### Benefits At-A-Glance

- The Los Alamos County landfill will not run out of room as quickly.
- The increased amount of material that gets recycled will help LANL meet the Appendix F recycling performance measures.
- The program educates employees working on construction or landscaping projects about which types of materials can be recycled.

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|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
|                            | <b>Summary Data</b>  |
| Priority Area:             | Waste Minimization Projects  |
| Project Type:              | Recycling  |
| Total Project Cost:        | NA   |
| Lifecycle Savings:         | LANL pays the LA County landfill for disposal of its sanitary waste based on LANL's percentage of use relative to all other users. The amount of savings varies based on the monthly quantity of waste sent to the landfill by LANL and by others. |
| Implementing Group:        | JCNNM  |
| Benefiting Groups:         | all of LANL and the Los Alamos County landfill   |
| Useful Life Years:         | Indefinite   |
| Return on Investment:      | NA   |
| Lifecycle Waste Reduction: | ~13,000 metric tons expected every year  |
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